

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on December 1, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicants have editorially amended claim 11. Claims 1 and 6 are the independent claims. Claims 1 and 3-13 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Claim 11 has been objected to because of informalities. In response thereto, claim 11 has been amended. It is respectfully submitted that the objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-5, 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Eiraku et al.* (US 6,902,285 B2). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is well settled that a reference may anticipate a claim within the purview of 35 USC §102 only if all the features and all the relationships recited in the claim are taught by the reference either by clear disclosure or under the principle of inherency.

Applicant's independent claim 1 recites a backlight module, including: an outer frame, an upper frame, a bottom frame, a reflector and at least a light source. The upper frame is disposed within and removably coupled within the outer frame and has a receiving space. The bottom frame is removably coupled to at least one of the outer frame and the upper frame for enclosing the receiving

space. The reflector is disposed in the receiving space and on the bottom frame. The light source is disposed in the receiving space and above the reflector. When the backlight module is inverted, the bottom frame is separable from the outer frame, so that the reflector can be removed, and the light source can be exchanged after both of the bottom frame and the reflector are removed. The light source can be exchanged after both of the bottom frame and the reflector are removed.

In contrast, *Eiraku et al.* disclose a display apparatus, including a housing 11, a display apparatus cover 3, a display element 1, and a backlight apparatus 2. The backlight apparatus 2 includes fluorescent tube lamps 4, a light guide plate 5, a backlight frame 6, optical sheets 7, and a reflection sheet 8 (Col. 3, lines 3-17). The backlight frame 6 is a case having lateral sides that extend upwards to accommodate the fluorescent tube lamps 4, the light guide plate 5 and the reflector sheet 8. The lateral sides of the backlight frame 6 are mounted to a cover 9 which is mounted to the display apparatus cover 3 (Col. 3, lines 11-13 and 19-21; and FIG. 1). The display apparatus is generally covered by the housing 11. Thus cables 10 that extend in the back of backlight frame 6 are positioned in a space between the housing 11 and the backlight frame 6 (Col. 3, lines 50-54).

The Office Action has equated the backlight frame 6 disclosed by *Eiraku et al.* as being the bottom frame of the present invention. However, *Eiraku et al.* disclose that the backlight frame 6 is a case to accommodate the fluorescent tube lamps 4, the light guide plate 5 and the reflector sheet 8. Besides, the backlight

frame 6 of *Eiraku et al.* has lateral sides extending upward and mounted to the cover 9 which is mounted to the display apparatus cover 3 (Col. 3, lines 11-13 and 19-21; and FIG. 1). This contrasts with the claimed invention in which the upper frame has a receiving space for receiving the reflector and the light source and the bottom frame is for enclosing the receiving space.

Further, *Eiraku et al.* fail to disclose (or even to suggest) that when the backlight module is inverted, the bottom frame is separable from the at least one of the outer frame and the upper frame, so that the reflector can be removed, and the light source can be exchanged after both of the bottom frame and the reflector are removed, as recited in claim 1.

It is noted that the backlight frame 6 of *Eiraku et al.*, relied on by the Examiner as being the bottom frame, is enclosed by the housing 11 and the lateral sides thereof extending upward are mounted to the cover 3 (Col. 3, lines 19-21 and 50-52). Thus, even if the backlight apparatus 2 of *Eiraku et al.* were considered capable of being inverted as alleged by the Examiner, the backlight frame 6 enclosed by the housing 11 would not be able to be separated from the cover 9 or the display apparatus cover 3. In order to reach the backlight frame 6, the housing 11 should be first removed and the cables 10 positioned between the housing 11 and the backlight frame 6 should be disassembled from the backlight apparatus 2. After that, the backlight frame 6 will be reached for separation.

In particular, when exchanging the fluorescent tube lamps 4 in the backlight apparatus 2 of *Eiraku et al.*, the housing 11 should be first disassembled from the

backlight apparatus 2. Then, the display apparatus cover 3 and the cover 9 to which the lateral sides of the backlight frame 6 are mounted are sequentially disassembled from of the backlight frame 6 in order to take out the display element 1, optical sheets 7 and the light guide plate from the accommodation space of the backlight frame 6. This is similar to the prior art disclosed in FIG. 1 of the present application, in which the ion frame 102, the upper plastic frame 104 along with the LCD panel 108, and the multiplayer optical films 110 and the light guide plate 114 have to be sequentially removed in order to exchange the CCFL 112. Besides, during the exchanging process, damage to the display panel, the multilayer optical film 110 and the light guide plate 114 will be caused by hitting and scratching.

As such, it is submitted that Applicant's independent claim 1, as well as the claims 3-5 dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by (or rendered obvious by) the cited reference. It is therefore submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 6-9, 12 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Eiraku et al.* (US 6,902,285 B2) and *Hayashimoto et al.* (US 6,870,582). The rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 6 is an independent method claim, which include limitations similar those of claim 1. Thus, *Eiraku et al.* fail to disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Besides, the secondary reference *Hayashimoto et al.* fail to overcome the above deficiencies of *Eiraku et al.* It therefore is submitted that independent claim 6, as well as its

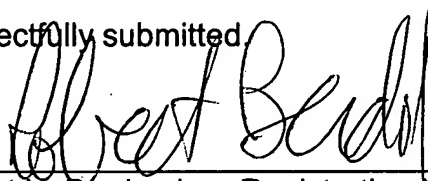
dependant claims 7-9 and 12-13, are patentable over the applied references. As such, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Based on the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such a Notice, with allowed claims 1 and 3-13 is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

Should any fee be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

RHB/vm